

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-02 INR-07 NSC-05 USIE-00 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ( ISO ) R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER:SM

APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN TRATTNER

S/S - CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 039161 TOSEC 040071

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

NO. 5

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS  
FROM PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING:

(1) DEMONSTRATION AT AMERICAN EMBASSY LAGOS -- DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES AND WAS DISPERSED BY POLICE WITH TEAR GAS. NO INJURIES AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. U.S. EMBASSY FLAG WAS TAKEN AWAY AND CHANCERY WINDOWS WERE BROKEN. WE PROTESTED TO NIGERIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FEBRUARY 18.

ON SUBJECT OF NIGERIA, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT NIGERIA IS RECOVERING FROM LAST WEEK'S ATTEMPTED COUP IN RAPID AND ORDERLY FASHION, WHICH DEMONSTRATES VIABILITY OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTIONS. WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO  
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STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH THIS IMPORTANT COUNTRY, AND

WE DO NOT INTEND TO ALLOW ATTEMPTED COUP TO AFFECT OUR POLICY OR ATTITUDE TOWARD NIGERIA. ASKED IF HE COULD CATEGORICALLY STATE THAT U.S. WAS NOT INVOLVED IN COUP ATTE;PT, SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT HE COULD.

(2) IZVESTIA ARTICLE CLAIMING ANY PROBLEM EXPERIENCED BY EMBASSY MOSCOW IS SELF-GENERATED BY AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT -- NO COMMENT.

(3) LIFTING OF BARS TO EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS -- WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY RECENT LIFTING OF BARRIERS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, TREND HAS BEEN POSITIVE. ABOUT 100,000 SOVIET JEWS HAVE EMIGRATED SINCE EARLY '70S. THAT IS SINCE THE TIME WE BEGAN TO TRY TO PUT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS. IT SEEMS CLEAR OUR POLICIES HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN THAT UPWARD OVERALL TREND.

(4) REPORTS OF SISCO LEAVING DEPARTMENT TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY -- ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

(5) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIA -- WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT WE DECIDED TO POSTPONE TALKS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE UNTIL FISCAL 1977, THAT THIS DECISION WAS NOT BASED ON OR TIED TO ANY SINGLE EVENT, AND THAT AT PRESENT WE DO NOT FEEL THE ATMOSPHERE APPROPRIATE TO GO FORWARD WITH DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WE HAD PROPOSED TO BEGIN TALKS ON MODALITIES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN FISCAL 1976 BUDGET, WHICH CONTAINS ITEM FOR DOLLAR 76 MILLION FOR INDIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IT IS THESE TALKS THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE. THESE TALKS WERE NEVER ACTUALLY UNDERWAY.

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